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The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to express Citigroup's strong support for the negotiation of a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and the Dominican Republic-Central America regions.

Citigroup operates in over 100 countries around the world with over 85 years of operating experience in Latin America and the Caribbean. Our businesses in the Dominican Republic and Central America play an integral role in our franchise.

As a leading foreign bank in the region, we believe the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement can serve to generate significant business opportunities and accelerate regional integration by removing existing barriers to trade, increasing access to markets and standardizing regulations and laws within the financial industry to facilitate and enhance capital flows. The agreement will strengthen the Dominican Republic and Central American economies through the creation of new trade opportunities and rejuvenate those economies adversely impacted by recession. In addition, the agreement will engender the economic growth necessary to fortify democracy and social stability in both regions. These factors are essential to ensure the appropriate economic climate exists for our customers and investments in the region.

In addition to NAFTA, previous preferences have been granted to Caribbean, Central American and African countries. This agreement would further strengthen the trade ties between the Dominican Republic, the countries of Central America and the United States.

Citigroup is deeply committed to long-term engagement in the Dominican Republic and Central America regions. This agreement would be a historic opportunity for the United States to show its support for the region in light of its current economic challenges. It is extremely important to achieve prompt and successful negotiation of the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement for the political, social, and economic stability of the regions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Chuck Prince". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.